

In 2007, penal fines were at their highest level -- \$31.3 million. By 2021, penal fines have dropped to a little more than \$19 million or \$3.78/capita. Why the big drop? Turmoil caused by the pandemic, and little control on reversing the slow erosion of income from things such as:

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Court reform/consolidation;

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Legalization of recreational marijuana;

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Increased speed limits on highways;

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Adoption of parallel local ordinances that reduce penal fines to civil fines;

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Weigh stations being bypassed with new technology and not being staffed.

It is also important to know how this distribution happens and the Act that makes it possible. Here for your reading pleasure is [Act 59 of 1964 of Michigan Compiled Laws](#) .

The Library of Michigan's website has background information on penal fines. [Check it out here](#)